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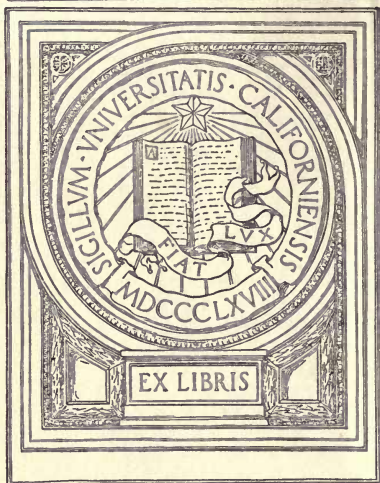


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Heads of a Proposed Speech
by a Proprietor, Upon the Pol-
icy of Renewing the Company's
Monopoly, &c.

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AT LOS ANGELES



EX LIBRIS

H E A D S

OF A

PROPOSED SPEECH,

BY A PROPRIETOR,

UPON THE POLICY OF RENEWING THE

COMPANY'S MONOPOLY, &c.

OF THE
~~PROPRIETOR~~
OF THE
COMPANY

LONDON:

PRINTED IN MDCCXCIII.

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BY A PROPRIETOR

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HEADS, &c.

WE are now met to discuss the most important points, and ought to pause long upon them. What momentous, what inconceivable revolutions have lately been effected within a short period! America is now a separate empire, and the effects of her independance are only now beginning to influence our commerce and carrying trade. Asia is our great object, and we should be cautious how we manage our extensive possessions there as Sovereigns. Let us rise superior to the narrow views of merchants, and adopt an enlarged policy. Hitherto the observation of Adam Smith has been too much verified, where he says, that "a company of " merchants is, it seems, incapable of considering

“ sidering themselves as Sovereigns, even
 “ after they have become such; trade, or
 “ buying in order to sell again, they still con-
 “ sider as the principal business, and, by a
 “ strange absurdity, regard the character of
 “ the Sovereign as but an appendix to that
 “ of the merchant, as something which
 “ ought to be made subservient to it, or by
 “ means of which they may be enabled to
 “ sell cheaper in India, and thereby to sell
 “ with a better profit in Europe; they en-
 “ deavour for this purpose to keep out as
 “ much as possible all competitors from the
 “ market of the countries which are subject
 “ to their government, and consequently to
 “ reduce, at least, some part of the surplus
 “ produce of those countries to what is bare-
 “ ly sufficient for supplying their own de-
 “ mand, or to what they can expect to sell
 “ in Europe, with such a profit as they may
 “ think reasonable; their mercantile habits
 “ draw them in this manner almost necessa-
 “ rily, though perhaps insensibly, to prefer
 “ upon all ordinary occasions the *little* and
 “ *transitory* profit of the monopolist to the
 “ *great* and *permanent* revenue of the Sove-
 “ reign.”

Have we not made ourselves obnoxious to the above remark, even in our answers to Mr. Dundas, wherein we object in the character of monopolists to the permission for individuals to import, as it would reduce the price of our investments, and therefore preferred granting Bills upon Leadenhall-street. When attacked by propositions for monopoly, we assume the character of Sovereigns, and observe upon the immodest and ungenerous request of the cotton manufacturers, to exclude the muslins, &c. of our subjects in India from use in Great Britain; “ *that it is an expedient which the legislature of this country never can adopt from motives of humanity and justice.*” Would not the commerical servants complain of inability to supply investments? Would not the collector represent that the specie does not come to his district as heretofore for cloths, and that he cannot realize his revenue? would not the weavers famishing cry aloud for support? would not the landholder exclaim? would not all Asia execrate the deed?

Providence has bestowed upon us an extensive territory, under a benign climate, with great fertility, with variety of productions,
and

and millions of inhabitants. When we first acquired these invaluable possessions, we found the throne of Delhi tottering to its foundation, and the nobles divided amongst themselves: our unanimity and discipline soon triumphed over their discord and confusion; thousands and tens of thousands fled before our hundreds. After this they annually farmed from us the destructive privilege of preying upon each other. The manufactures of India which before went to Europe in exchange for goods and specie, were now transmitted to Europe as a tribute: nay, the Dutch, Danes, and French, provided investments, with the fortunes of the company's civil and military servants. The consequences of these measures were soon seen in Asia, in the decline of agriculture and manufactures, but Great Britain was greatly supported during the war, by this influx of real wealth, by the tribute of the United East Company, and by the fortunes of individuals through foreign companies; *both* being equal gain to the nation. The government, however, noticed, upon this occasion, one obvious evil, namely, that the foreign companies did not send specie to Asia, and became the carriers of the companies servants, to the increase of their shipping, and to their advantage,

tage, whilst they did not purchase so much
 or so dear in Leadenhall-street. To prevent
 this, the company was compelled to open a
 channel of remittance by granting bills from
 India on England, and a law was enacted to
 make the trade illegal. What has been the
 effect of these regulations? A great influx of
 paper, without a proportional increase of in-
 vestments; foreigners for a time were em-
 barraressed, but they are sending specie and
 goods to buy the commodities of the East.
 Spaniards, Americans, and British illicit trad-
 ers (as they are termed) now resort to the
 East, in addition to the established foreign
 companies; already their exports exceed those
 of the United East Company, and they will
 annually increase. We behold only the point
 of the wedge, which is now forcing itself to
 serious attention: some recommend coercive
 laws to prevent British merchants in India
 from acting for foreigners. Let us examine
 what will be the probable consequence. The
 British American and native merchants will
 take up their residence in foreign factories:
 Calcutta will only be the depot of the com-
 panies merchandize, whilst Serampore, Chan-
 dernagore, and Chinsura, will be full of goods,
 and

and crowded with seamen, agents, merchants, &c. Consider how this will increase the foreign companies, towns, and fiscal revenues, and what a dangerous naval force it will give to them. I hear every one arguing as if Europeans must send specie or goods to purchase, since the companies servants no longer have great fortunes to remit; but we do not perceive, that as the fortunes of the servants have diminished in the proportion of one, those of the natives have increased in the proportion of four. The native merchants have goods of all kinds ready at Calcutta, and if they cannot vend them to European merchants, they will soon ship them to be sold in Europe, on their account, and rely upon European agents to remit back the amount of the sales. The company ought to allow private ships to go under their passport, to become the carriers of Asia's superabundance, the owners of those ships binding themselves under a penalty to bring back the produce of Asia to some port of Great Britain or Ireland. If the company are desirous of enjoying the carrying trade, let them obtain it by superior terms, but not by monopoly; for I must agree in this with the Glasgow mer-

merchants, “ *that the plan proposed of individuals or private companies exporting and importing merchandize in the companies ships, will be entirely nugatory. For a trade so shackled by means of ships, factors, warehouses, &c. at home and abroad belonging to the company, whose interest may not perhaps always be in consonance with those of private adventurers, would be a source of eternal heart-burning and complaint, sometimes proceeding from real causes, and sometimes from unfounded jealousy or inevitable disappointment.*”

Individuals will not have it in their power so much to interfere in the interior of India, if *British merchants*, as if *foreign*, because the former must be more attached and responsible to the company's administration ; rules moreover might be added if requisite to restrict them to certain spots. Laws make men. Moral causes operate much more than physical, and the natives now no longer fly from a European, or hesitate to become his competitor in traffic ; in some ports indeed of native powers, the private trader might find admission where the company would be excluded.

cluded. The name of company and conqueror is synonymous; under the plea of trade the company were received in Bengal, and on the Coromandel Coast, and they now have their forts, armies, and territories: *Et timeo Danaos etiam dona ferentes*, is the maxim of the native powers. The letters of Mr. Malet and Kennaway introduced in the report of the select committee as arguments in favor of the company, strongly illustrate my argument; V Mr. Malet apprehends "*awakening the jealousy and suspicion*" of the Mahrattas, and Mr. Kennaway observes, that the company's commercial views "*would be construed into some sinister intention by the Nizam.*" The company should, I think, bring home their tributary investments as they shall please, and that the private trade of Asia, as it is called, should be free, if the traders bound themselves not to act in any manner to create disturbances which is not now easy to be done.

It will be urged that foreigners will have the advantage of us still, as the duties at home are so heavy, and as those in Asia are done away. I acknowledge it: but duties may soon be re-established in Asia, and encourage-

couragements afforded here to make Great Britain the emporium. The committee of warehouses, in their masterly report upon sugars, wisely commence with observing,

"That the only true and effectual way in which Great Britain can be benefited by the territorial acquisitions in India, is through the medium of an extensive commerce."

The Company pay customs, charges, freight and merchandize one million annually; every shilling spent in Great Britain comes, sooner or later, into the public Exchequer; what a loss must be suffered if the private trade is thrown into a foreign channel! Fortunes ought to come home in goods and not in paper: the former is intrinsic wealth, enriching the state, the other is nominal wealth, depreciating the funds, and creating a plethoric disorder. I am of opinion, moreover, that a funded debt in Asia would be beneficial, as it would establish a monied interest to counteract the landed one, and as it would benefit the country; for, as Mr. Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury to the United States of America, justly remarks,

“ Public funds answer the purpose of capital, from the estimation in which they are usually held by monied men, and consequently from the ease and dispatch with which they can be turned into money. This capacity of prompt convertibility into money, causes a transfer of stock to be in a great number of cases equivalent to a payment in coin. And where it does not happen to suit the party who is to receive, to accept a transfer of stock, the party who is to pay, is never at a loss to find elsewhere a purchaser of his stock, who will furnish him, in lieu of it, with the coin of which he stands in need.

“ Hence in a sound and settled state of the public funds, a man possessed of a sum in them can embrace any scheme of business, which offers, with as much confidence, as if he were possessed of an equal sum in coin. This operation of public funds, as capital, is too obvious to be denied.”

The motives for granting a transfer of the debt from India to Great Britain were, *first*, to give remittances to individuals through the
 Com-

Company, to the exclusion of foreigners ; and, *secondly*, the saving of interest between that and eight per cent. Now if the trade with Asia is open to British merchants, multifarious channels for private remittances will be open, and the first motive done away ; and if bullion is imported into Bengal, the quantity of specie will soon lower the interest, and the second motive, viz. difference of interest, will no longer exist. An accumulating national debt, on account of the colonies, seems almost inadmissible at any period, but during our present circumstances totally so.

The Company ought to lose sight of their paltry monopolizing gains, and consider themselves as the Sovereigns of one country and as the subjects of the other. The great duties of the first character are to render their people happy and prosperous, and the first object of the latter character should be to render Asia a benefit to Great Britain. Is not the British merchant in India the only one restricted by a prohibition ? Is not the foreign merchant encouraged ? Does not this alienate the attachment of your countrymen ? Are they worse than foreigners ? Lord Cornwallis must

must have regretted that the present injurious restrictions exist. He approved of the foreign trade because it supplied resources. The Company annually drain the country of a million and upwards, and how can it support this, without a beneficial commerce? The industry of a state constitutes its wealth; the industry of the state is the cause of its quiet. Adam Smith recommends commerce as *“it introduces order and good government, and with them the liberty and security of individuals, among the inhabitants of a country, who before lived in a continual state of war with their neighbours, and of servile dependancy upon their superiors.”*

Although the Honourable Court, in their general letter, has described the late change in the financial and political system of Bengal *“as of high importance, involving the most momentous interests of the Company and of extensive kingdoms for the present and all future time,”* yet is it not adverted to in any speech or publication since that of the Sugar Committee.

The landholders no longer attend the levees of collectors, and hope possession from
his

his smile; or fear expulsion from his frown. They no longer endeavour to subvert each other by his influence. The native traders no longer assemble round the collectors court to obtain redress of impositions by Zemindars. The landholder is fixed for ever; and establishes himself upon his estate; he feels his independance, and enjoys the patronage flowing from under renting, renewing of leases, &c. and they have lived with little observation of life, who do not know that patronage and power are synonymous. If in Ireland the Protestant ascendancy could only be preserved by the smaller party, who were about one third, holding almost all the lands as well as the offices of state, consider how the influence of the natives holding all the lands, must sooner or later preponderate in India, where the Europeans are not more than one to a thousand, unless an intermediate class of merchants and manufacturers is encouraged. Population is increasing, agriculture advancing, and wealth flowing in, and the natives will soon become rich. I must of course approve of the new revenue system, for under Lord Cornwallis's auspices I greatly promoted the perpetual land-tax, and

and the abolition of all feudal tolls, duties, and impediments; and previous to this, the natives had gradually been impoverished. The millions whom Providence has entrusted to us must be benefited by it, and let us avail ourselves of an enriched country, till that day comes when we shall be obliged to relinquish it; even then, I hope, the natives will in gratitude for this humane measure, continue the trade to us, and we shall enjoy the satisfaction of having improved their understanding and their situation. May that day be far distant! but, as an old servant, and as a proprietor and a British subject, I must freely warn you, that any commercial restrictions threaten to accelerate the subversion of your Sovereignty in the East.

Permit me here to mention, that your civil servants are appointed to principalities, and allowed salaries inadequate to their trusts; you adhere to mercantile views, and overlook those of the ruler. Lord Cornwallis has recommended, that the revenue board should have allowances equal to the commercial; Sir John Shore has advised it, and shortly after my arrival, I presumed to remind the honorable

able court ; yet the disproportion exists. The number of your collectors and judges should be augmented, and their salaries raised, that they may have a zeal in your service, and a hope of revisiting their native country ; your army is deplorably stinted in their pay, and foreign service, despondence or disaffection must impress their minds ; they are not allowed even to come home on half-pay to see their friends. Can a civil or military servant acquire any thing in India advantageous to him for this country but wealth ? his merits and demerits are rarely known, or if known, more rarely noticed ; a general odium has been thrown upon all who return from Asia ; to avoid persecution rather than to gain honor must be their object. We are daily exulting in our prosperity, we are continually stating the revenues of Oud and Benares, of opium, salt, &c. and yet six years of prosecution have been bringing the grey hairs of long service with sorrow to the grave.

Your commercial servants and free merchants all murmur at restrictions, and the natives of India will join in complaint ; I warn you against monopoly, for it will be the

torch to set the whole country in a flame. When one man gave his evidence in the House of Commons predicting the loss of America, it created disbelief. May my opinion not meet with the same reception or the same verification. I have read Mr. Dundas's letter of the 24th inst. and hesitate not to acknowledge, that it has afforded me inexpressible satisfaction. The claims of all are now heard, the rights of all are now discussing, and the interests of all are now reconciling. I wish that Lord Cornwallis was now arrived, that able, that just man, that superior being, *namque erit ille mihi semper deus*; he would, I am almost confident, be an advocate for legalizing the present illicit commerce. America has excluded us from her carrying trade, shall we for twenty-one years exclude our own merchants, and encourage hers? She puts prohibitory duties upon our imports into America, we withdraw the duties that existed upon our exports from Asia, in a few years not 10,000 tons of private shipping, but 100,000 tons will proceed from Asia. The fortunes of companies servants, of British merchants all come home; they should be considered by the legislature in an

im-

impartial light with the company; instead of their interests being deemed separate, they should be viewed as the same, for all enrich their native country: the connection, the attachment of all should be excited. The tribute of Asia is a net profit, equally so is every fortune of the civil and military servants, and of every British merchant from Asia remitted in goods to Great Britain; is a million only to be looked to, and that liable to diminution, from disappointment, from war, and from famine. Adam Smith justly observes, *“ that the East Indies offer a market both for the manufacturers of Europe, and for the gold and silver and other productions of America, greater and more extensive than both Europe and America together.”* Consider that you have twenty-five millions in Bengal, and perhaps fifteen millions in your other territories of industrious people: consider that labor does not exceed two-pence or three-pence per diem: consider that the soil requires little cultivation, not any manure, and produces almost spontaneously; every year your inhabitants are multiplying, and vast tracts of waste land bringing into cultivation; aqueducts are cutting in every direction,

tion ; in short, what will not be done by men who are secured in their possessions ? In the report of the committee of warehouses, an extract from the consultations of Fort William, dated 1776, states, that sugar used to be exported to Bombay, &c. and that in twenty years this article brought in to Bengal sixty lacs of rupees ; this advantageous trade was totally lost by our own bad management of the country in the revenue line as sovereigns. I am happy to inform the court, that my letters from India, and the oral evidence of a sensible gentleman just arrived, communicate the renewal of this export to its former extent.

Not long ago, the honorable court of directors wrote to the committee of sugar consumers, of which I had the honor to be a member, “ *that they were satisfied that the export of sugars (if any) was trifling, and that sugar-candy was imported into all parts of India from other countries, and that our sanguine ideas were unfounded.* Now I understand that the company will receive next year four or five thousand ton. I mention this only as an instance in point of the rising

rising resources of India ; indeed, the report abovementioned has truly observed, that “ *the time is arrived, when both the cultivation and commerce of the country are about to assume a more pleasing appearance.* ”

The natives are not converting corn fields to sugar cane, and diminishing the produce of corn, as some persons imagine, but they are burning extensive grass plains and ploughing them to the increase of cotton, of mulberries for silk-worms, of indigo, of wheat, barley and rice ; and here let me remark, that rice carried from Bengal to Ostend proves a saving cargo to those ships which are not full freighted. Coffee is planted, and flourishes in our territories, and we have hundreds of cinnamon trees reared by Colonel Kyd from a tree or two which Mr. Hastings introduced from Ceylon. The Dutch Chief of Chinsura started at the sight, when walking in the botanical garden. Dean Swift applauds the man who increases a blade of grass : the benefits of these invaluable trees will be annually acknowledged, when the voice of calumny is no more. I have dwelt long on the future prosperity of Asia, that you might be

be aware of the consequences of any system for twenty-one years. If the charter shall be renewed on the present terms, scarce any Minister will venture to infringe it, after a late *example*. Suppose any misfortune in the West India islands, our resort to Asia will compensate. When a war occurs in Asia, the revenues are appropriated to armaments, and the investments are diminished, nay the foreign commerce increases, as the Company's declines. In my letters to Mr. Wiffot I have entered at large into the policy of the internal commercial management and regulations, and beg leave to refer thereto.

To conclude.—I propose first, that a duty on exports, if not on imports, should be established in India.

Secondly, That every encouragement should be given for the import of Asiatic produce into Great Britain for home consumption and exportation.

Thirdly, That the debt in Asia should be funded there, and not transferred to Leadenhall-street.

Fourth,

Fourth, That the Company should bring home their investments upon the present shipping, or as they please, but that the British merchant should adopt any mode he may prefer of trading to and from Asia, being amenable to the laws.

Fifth, That external and internal commerce and manufactures should be encouraged, because it will enrich us as Sovereigns, and because it will, as Adam Smith observes, *“ introduce order and good government, and “ with them the security of individuals,”* and because it will counteract the influence of landholders, by promoting transfers and subdivisions of estates, and by inducing them to expend their money upon luxuries, instead of supporting a number of servile dependants. In the General Letter of 1784, it is remarked, that some internal commotion annually appeared on their records; these are attributable to the old feudal system, now done away.

Sixth,

Sixth, That your civil and military officers should have greater encouragement.

I have now fulfilled my duty, and submit my sentiments to the superior judgment of the court.

THE Honorable Court of Directors have quoted a Letter from a most able, liberal, commercial Servant, stating, " that the " Company's investment seems the only " counterbalance to the debasement of " cloths, which is attributed to the ignorance and eagerness of numerous adventurers." The following Letters from a Collector express different sentiments; the truth is, that the British and foreign Companies and private Europeans, all exercised too much authority for their own ends upon the first acquisition of power, but Lord Cornwallis has prevented prejudicial coercive measures. The finest manufactures were in India, during the Mogul government, and not introduced by us. If private traders purchase injudiciously, they will soon correct their error, but if the Sovereign shall exclude all competition, the weaver must be at his mercy. If the King of Great Britain, wishing to monopolize the trade in hard-ware, should depute an agent to Birmingham, and require that the manufacturers should work for

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him on his own terms, and exclude private traders because they purchased injudiciously, how long would that town and its industrious inhabitants prosper?

TO JOHN STABLES, Esq;
PRESIDENT, &c. MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF REVENUE.

GENTLEMEN,

✓ I AM honored with your letter under date the 5th of September, inclosing "Regulations for the Honorable Company's Weavers."

As a Collector intrusted with a large revenue, as a Judge presiding over a numerous society, as a Servant of a liberal Government, I should betray my duty, if I suppressed my sentiments upon this interesting subject.— But these Regulations being issued with the formality

formality of printing, I feel peculiar embarrassment.

Deference to my Superiors, prompts me to an anxious delicacy of expression, whilst reason dictates the language of perspicuity.

Arguments feebly urged, may fail to produce a revision of so decided a measure, and I may betray justice, if I permit my feelings to supercede my judgment.

Conscious of the necessity which occasions this intrusion, and relying upon your experienced candor, I trust that sincerity of remark will never bear the construction of disrespect.

The following is an abstract of the material articles.

“ The 2d prohibits any judicial process
 “ for debt or revenue against any manufacturer or commercial dependant ; but the
 “ 3d article requires the creditor or collector to apply to the commercial Residents,
 “ and if unredressed, the judicial Courts may

“ issue summons, through the commercial
“ Resident, but further no provision is
“ made.

“ The 4th orders the above process, in
“ cases of breach of peace, or other misde-
“ meanor.

“ The 6th authorises the commercial Re-
“ sident or Assistant to summons any person
“ under the denomination of a manufac-
“ turer from any distance.

“ The 7th denounces punishment and pe-
“ nalties against any obstruction to the ad-
“ mission of the commercial department.

“ The 8th *prohibits manufacturers from*
“ *engaging with other traders, whilst the com-*
“ *mercial servants choose to retain them.*

“ The 14th orders a list of manufacturers
“ to be weekly published by the commercial
“ agent.

“ The 17th defines the mode of redress
“ against the commercial agents and servants,
“ who

“ who may have forced engagements or pay
 “ at a less price, viz. Complaint to be made
 “ to the commercial Residents, and if un-
 “ redressed, the party may apply to the Col-
 “ lector, who may write to the commercial
 “ Resident, and after receiving his answer,
 “ on the one hand dismiss the suit; but on
 “ the other, transmit his correspondence to
 “ the Presidency, and if the weavers are dis-
 “ satisfied they may delegate ten to the Pre-
 “ fidency.”

Avoiding the presumption of a particular
 comment upon each article, the general ef-
 fects appear to my mind self-evident. The
 zemindars and farmers will shun all engage-
 ments with manufacturers, being debarred
 recovery of revenue, but by application *to a*
party concerned; and the manufacturers *will*
reject the advances of the company's agents
 from whom they *are denied emancipation*.

I have ever found the natives actuated by
 the same motives which influence mankind.
 Distrust damped exertion, whilst confidence
 excited industry.

The

The company in the double capacity of sovereign and merchant, have distinct objects. In the former they should render every description of subjects amenable to established laws; in the latter, *they should purchase fairly*, without any other influence than superior credit.

In the foregoing regulations, article 18, it is ordered, that “ free weavers should apply “ against free traders for redress, in the de- “ wanny adawlut,” and this appears to be the simple and only mode which should be prescribed to all. If the manufacturer fails in his engagements, the adawlut will decree costs, and a few examples will deter; but whilst these indefinite irregular administrations exist, the whole attention of the board will be required to peruse controversial correspondences, and multifarious references from collectors.

The investment is at present provided by contract: the name of the company is therefore improperly introduced; the minutia of
pur-

purchasing from weavers, &c. belong to the contractors, who calculating upon the market price, and probable rise and fall, give in their proposals accordingly, and forfeit a penalty upon failure.

If manufacturers were protected by an established court, they would avail themselves of the rights of humanity, and sell to the best bidder; their numbers would increase, and subsequently the price of goods would lower, as the proportion of sellers multiplied upon that of the purchasers.

A sensible author on the wealth of nations has demonstrated, that the riches of a nation are its quantum of labor; every rupee paid for manufacturers is ultimately expended for grain, and from the ryot through the farmer reverts to the treasury.

If these suggestions operate equally upon your minds, I hope that they may be submitted to the perusal of the honorable governor
general

general and council, with the introductory support of your recommendation.

I am, with respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) THOMAS LAW,
Collector.

Oct. 4, 1786.

TO JOHN STABLES, Esq;
PRESIDENT, AND MEMBERS OF THE
REVENUE BOARD.

Fort William,

GENTLEMEN,

I HAD the honor to address you under date the 4th of October, immediately upon receipt of the printed regulations for weavers.

Last year I was obnoxious to the representations of the then contractor, Mr. Perney, and with pain I foresee the inevitable result of the present publication, *if I remain a tacit spectator*

spectator of the consequences, my revenues will fail; if I interfere, I am exposed to complaints for obstructing the business of the honorable company. I will not presume to state which conduct will most essentially promote their interests, or again intrude with a needless repetition of my sentiments. Happy should I deem myself, did not my duty necessitate me to claim your attention to the enclosed letter from Mr. Sumner, and to request your directions whether or not to publish the advertisement transmitted by that gentleman. Every material subject had been canvassed and adjusted; all was quietly progressive; but now with uneasiness I prepare for multitudinous references *and certain relapse*. Impressed with a full sense of the flattering testimonies of approbation I have lately received, I should be sorry, (by whatever means effected) to state my district in arrears.

I remain,

Gentlemen,

With great respect,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed)

THOMAS LAW,
Collector.

Gya, Dec. 7, 1786.

TO THOMAS LAW, Esq;

COLLECTOR OF ROTASS, &c.

SIR,

LOLLA JUTMUL is Gomastah appointed for making purchases at the Cortey of Ichunabad on the honorable company's account: and I am most earnestly to request you will give him *that countenance* recommended by the right honorable governor general and council in their printed regulations of September last. And as the weavers have been accustomed to receive pervannas from collectors of the revenue to *assure them of such countenance*, I hope you will issue one of the form inclosed, or to its purport: *for the weavers have absolutely refused to furnish cloths without some such orders.*

I am,

Sir,

Your very obedient humble servant,

(Signed) JOHN SUMNER,

Patna, Nov. 6, 1786.

Commercial Chief.

Be

Be it known to the Aumils, Lezawuls, Zemindars, Chowdries, and Canangoes of the Pergunnahs, Tekarry, Chynpore and Saffurum ; the Aurungs of Ichanabad, Darodnagur, &c. of Sarcar, Behar and Rotafs, are opened for the purchase of cloths for the Company, agreeable to the orders of the Honorable Governor General and Supreme Council, and that Gomastahs are deputed to each Aurung and Pergunnah, they will buy cloths ; you therefore must injoin your officers that the weavers, assamys, head manufacturers and delols, transactors, &c. attending upon the Gomastahs, deliver to them cloths by monthly instalments, *according to former custom, agreeable to the Company's musters, and receive the proper price from the Gomastahs that the Company's investment may be timely provided.*

A true translate.

(Signed) THOMAS LAW.

TO JOHN SUMNER, Esq;

COMMERICAL CHIEF.

Patna.

S I R,

I AM honored with your letter of the 26th ult. *complaining* that the weavers refuse to furnish cloths *without an order from me*.

Information had previously reached me of your advertisement, which had *created a general alarm among the weavers*. The publication you now desire from me *requires the provision of cloths according to former custom*.

I submit to your perusal copy and translate of Adawleet proceedings, *wherein the Gomastah acknowledges himself the appraiser of his own purchases*; wherein it is *deposed that he exacts Tullabanch (or mulct under the name of Peons wages,)* and *takes the cloths at a price much less than that of the market*.

With

With these circumstances repeatedly proved to me, I am convinced, that your opinion will justify my declining the use of indefinite terms, which would bear a construction tantamount to an authority for a renewal of the foregoing grievances. I am fully assured of your liberal intentions, which the weavers themselves acknowledge, but when numerous delegates are armed with power to purchase, unamenable to Adawlut, and with the confirmation of my Perwannah, it is not natural to expect that they will forsake former habits.

Not a complaint has been received by me against private merchants, though the weavers are constantly employed either for sale of public markets, or for native purchasers, and unless they received an inferior price, or suffered hardships from the Gomastahs, I am at a loss to account for their reluctance to manufacture for them; studious, however, to avoid the least deviation from the regulations of the Honorable Board, I shall immediately request directions upon this subject; in the interim I have the honor to enclose copy of my correspondence with Mr. Perney, and if the Perwannas then circulated to my Aumils be

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agree-

agreeable, upon being favored with the name of the present Contractor, I will immediately issue similar ones.

In respect to the demand of Tullubanch, permit me to recommend its abolition. *I prohibited the custom when Judge of the Patna Adawlut*, and received the sanction of the Honorable Board; my reasons for the measure are subscribed in this extract from my letter. “ Should the Mohuffils abuse their
 “ authority over the helpless Ryot, and ex-
 “ act more than diet-money, he is almost
 “ excluded from redress. The difficulty of
 “ proof, the apparent insignificance of the
 “ sum, the natural partiality of the master of
 “ the servant, the obnoxious situation of the
 “ defaulter in confinement, the meanness of
 “ his figure, the obscurity of his language
 “ and complaint, with every other cause that
 “ should plead loudly in his behalf, are
 “ rather motives of repugnancy.”

I remain,

S I R,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed)

THOMAS LAW,

Gya, 6th Dec. 1786.

Collector.

To the COLLECTOR of ROTAS.

S I R,

WE have received your letters of the 4th October and 7th instant, upon the subject of the regulations lately published for the Company's weavers.

As it does not appear to us, that the tenor of these regulations rendered it obligatory upon you to issue the Perwanna solicited by the commercial Chief at Patna, we approve of the motives by which your conduct has been guided in declining to comply with his application.

We have addressed the Right Honorable the Governor General and Council upon the subject of the regulations in question; whose directions shall be communicated to you, when received.

We are, &c.

26th Dec. 1786.

Lord Cornwallis annulled these regulations.

To the COLLECTOR of BATAVA

WE have received your letter of the 21st
October and with instant upon the subject of
the regulations lately published for the Com-
pany's servants.

As it does not appear to us, that the tenor
of these regulations rendered it obligatory
upon you to issue the Perwans solicited by
the commercial Chief at Batavia, we approve
of the motives by which your conduct has
been guided in declining to comply with his
application.

We have addressed the Right Honorable
the Governor General and Council upon the
subject of these regulations in question; which
dilemma will be communicated to you when
received.

We are, &c.

Lord Cornwallis annulled this regula-

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